

The bill would authorize State department heads to award to officers and classified employees cash awards for inventions, superior accomplishments or other personal efforts that contribute to the efficiency, economy or other improvements of State operations, or for the performance of special acts or services in the public interest in connection with official employment.

The Governor also would be authorized, under the bill, to make such awards and even to make awards in addition to those that might be made by department heads.

The awards, in the main, would be limited to \$1,000, except that awards up to \$5,000 could be granted in special cases with the approval of the Commissioner of Personnel.

I favor the recognition of talent and initiative and believe that those virtues should be encouraged. I feel that we should have some system for setting apart for advancement and reward those who are devoted to their duties as contrasted with those who are willing to drift along doing just enough to "get by."

However, the methods established in Senate Bill No. 543 are far too loose for fair and capable administration.

Under its terms, employees of one department might receive awards for performances, suggestions or inventions which are equaled or exceeded, but unrewarded, in other departments.

A system such as this should be administered by a single board to guard against discrimination, favoritism and unfairness and to see that all recommendations for awards were carefully considered as to merit, value and originality among other things.

Since this bill lacks the necessary safeguards, I am disapproving it with the hope that the matter will be given more study by a future session of the General Assembly.

Sincerely,

(s) THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,

Governor.

TRMcK:O/c

Senate Bill No. 618—Scholarships at St. Mary's Female Seminary

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 252 of Article 77 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition), title "Public Education", sub-title "Free Scholarships", sub-heading "St. Mary's Female Seminary, St. Mary's City, St. Mary's County", relating to scholarships from St. Mary's County at St. Mary's Female Seminary.

April 15, 1957.

Hon. Louis L. Goldstein
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. President:

Senate Bill 618 amends Section 252 of Article 77 of the Annotated Code, to provide for additional free scholarships at St. Mary's Female